

# Chronicles of Monty Cantsin and Neoism

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Here is a detailed timeline and cast of characters based on the provided excerpts:

**Late 1970s (Portland, Oregon):** The concept of “Monty Cantsin” and Neoism is originated in Portland, Oregon. David Zack comes up with the idea of one name being used by multiple people, inspired by the Berlin Dada concept of adopting the identity of Christ. David Zack proposes bestowing the name “Monty Cantsin” on Istvan Kantor at a meeting of The 14 Secret Masters of the World. Istvan Kantor becomes “Monty Cantsin - Open Pop Star.”

**1980:** The ghost musical group “Lt. Murnau” is invented.

**1982:** During a lecture, “he” sat forward and began to talk again. (Ambiguous event, possibly related to the early development of Neoist ideas or figures).

**1984 (London):** The London Apartment Fest (APT) takes place. This event is mentioned as significant, after which Yantoh the Mystery Dog (who was first called Monty Cantsin) reportedly disappears and moves to Berlin, potentially taking the form of Graf Haufen.

**February [Last Year, Spiralling non-linear calendar]:** A conversation takes place in a café where Cantsin explains Neoist reasons for not drinking alcohol. The location and exact year are kept secret or are non-linear.

**[Undated, possibly overlapping with other events]:** Street actions are performed, with attempts to charge admission to a LOW theatre where the audience would watch from inside through a

bay window. Neoist Passports are attempted to be sold during these actions.

Experiments with “Hypnotic Movement” such as the “toilet paper ghost situation” and the “worm situation” occur.

The “Dr. Thorne” mythology begins and inspires Gail to write stories. An incident involving individuals acting paranoid and asking about “Dr. Thorne” through a slightly open door occurs with Steve. A birthday celebration for “Steven Thorne” occurs, where the drinks are secretly estrogen and nitrogen. This event involves many key Neoist figures and introduces the “Neoist Anthem.” Dr. Thorne is arrested at this event.

The “Neoist Performance Piece” involving saying “telephones and telephone bells have always made me uneasy” and “Its head was ...white ...all white.” when meeting other Neoists is practiced.

An event described as the “Drip Grammar Festival of Plagiarism” in Glasgow takes place, involving attempts to destroy a film, accusations of police experiments, and a disruptive firework incident in a dormitory involving Stiletto, Roberto Zito, and Graffix.

A plan is concocted with Genie and Gail to enter Reinhardt’s apartment by having them barge in and distract him, allowing another person (likely the narrator) to enter surreptitiously and later urinate loudly in the toilet.

A “Neoist Anti-Event Vac Food APT 4 Toronto” is mentioned.

The “Burning” event is proposed or takes place in Glasgow, involving the destruction of submitted works by fire as a statement against consumerism.

A “Neoist Occupation Week Motivation 5” is mentioned.

The “Akademgorod” concept, referring to the human body, is introduced, involving cutting lines in one’ s body.

The concept of “SMILE Magazine” as an international zine of multiple origins is established.

The concept of “Neoism” as an international movement of multiple origins is established.

Monty Cantsin is accosted in New York by two girls in silver overalls and Monty Cantsin masks who beat him up.

Investigations initiated by “I” upon exiting a cell to catch the arrival of Yantoh and Diana APT 8 are mentioned.

An unnamed event involves opening a door to a gray room, feeling the smell of blood, and performing a ritualistic action with nails.

Discussions and theories about “patanationalism,” “corporations,” “networks,” “pin-ups,” “neologism,” “interneologism,” “metaneologism,” “pataneologism,” “Spider’ s Web Strategy,” and “The Golden Flag of Neoism” occur.

The “Philosopher’ s Union Soapbox Stand” is mentioned, featuring abstract language and theories about reality and non-material entities.

The concept of “Met-a-phren-ic” and “Pat-a-phren-uc” as psychiatric disorders is discussed.

A project to alter all existing texts in all languages to replace 'c' with '( ' is proposed or initiated.

Discussions and theories about Dyslexia, particularly related to the work of Orton, are presented, including concepts like “twisted symbols” and “static” and “kinetic” reversals.

A “Continuity Poem (Cinematic Version)” is described, featuring various symbolic actions.

A scene involving talking to a locked door ("Maria, come out now") and a father entering with a saucepan of cold water occurs.

Drinking water from one's hands is recognized as a universal sign of friendship.

The “Neoist Anti-Event Vac Food APT 4 Toronto” is mentioned.

Discussions related to mail art, “Cheese-Whiz writing,” intimacy, and perception occur.

A discussion about the word “Blissett” and its etymological and symbolic connections to Hebrew, particularly related to beginning, end, and eternity, is presented.

The concept of the “Fructiferous Society” is mentioned.

A chain letter initiated by an English editor of SMILE magazine asking people to “make your own zines and call them SMILE” is circulating.

Reflections on the nature of identity and the concept of “Monty Cantsin” as a linguistic shifter are presented.

The “56 Laws of Neoism” are listed, outlining principles and concepts of the movement.

Mention is made of APT 10 11 Paris Amsterdam N.E.U. art Pregroperativistic movement.

Reflections on the “Eroticism of Boredom” and the search for Akademgorod within the human body are presented.

The concept of “Replication” in relation to “Monty Cantsin,” “SMILE Magazine,” and “Neoism” is outlined.

Various conflicting definitions and descriptions of “Monty Cantsin” and “Neoism” are provided.

A description of Monty Cantsin as an “explicitly empty figure” and “pure alias” is given.

The origin story of the name “Monty Cantsin” from Maris Kundzins and David Zack is recounted.

The idea that the basis of Neoism lies in anyone being able to be a particular individual, specifically Monty Cantsin, is discussed, noting its disintegration in arguments over who Monty Cantsin was.

Mention is made of Monty Cantsin living in a “prairie city” for ten years before coming to Budapest in 1976.

Correspondence and projects related to the “Monty Cantsin’s Cell system” and “correspondence novels” are described.

A meeting with Monty Cantsin near the Athabasca glacier is anticipated.

Monty Cantsin is described as a “voluntary prisoner of my own body” who is making a transition into future history.

The concept of “POSITIVE NIHILISM” is mentioned in relation to Neoism, though not recognized by one speaker.

Monty Cantsin is described as having developed strength beyond the lies of science.

The origin and concept of the “Lt. Murnau” project (1980-1984) as a ghost musical group focused on underground music are detailed.

The concept of “Luther Blissett” and its symbolic meaning derived from Hebrew is explained, including its perpetual permutation and dynamic nature.

Projects included in a SMILE magazine issue are encouraged to be realized by others due to the editor’s busy schedule.

Reflections on the “thunder perfect mind,” “intemperate flag waving,” and actions begun during the trip home after work are presented.

The concept of “Monty Cantsin” as a shifter that calls into question epistemological concepts is discussed.

The “56 Laws of Neoism” are presented as guidelines or principles of the movement.



Proposed activities for the “Neoist Defense league” include constructing motorized go-carts from stolen dumpsters to patrol Akademgorod and maintain the hierarchy of Neoism.

The idea that individual involvement with Neoism begins before birth, starting as Yantoh and then Monty Cantsin, is presented, along with the concept of the Fourteen Secret Masters of the World also being Monty Cantsin and having animal forms.

T. Hsieh is mentioned as having been a North American Bison.

A large family of “us” is described as living beneath the floorboards, waiting to emerge and change forms into the Fourteen Secret Masters of the World.

### **Cast of Characters**

**Monty Cantsin:** The central, fluid, and ambiguous figure of Neoism. Originally conceived by David Zack and first applied to Istvan Kantor, the name is intended to be used by anyone, embodying the idea of an “open pop star.” Described in myriad conflicting ways, from an explicitly empty figure and pure alias to a Canadian “total media artist,” magician, open theologian, and someone motivated by sexual desire. Also presented as a mystical figure linked to ancient history, animal forms, and a non-linear existence.

**David Zack:** A key figure in the origins of Neoism. Resident of Portland, Oregon in the late 1970s. Follower of Geo. I. Gurdjieff. Played the cello incessantly, sometimes upside down. Developed the concept of one name being used by multiple people, inspired by Berlin Dada. Proposed the name “Monty Cantsin” for Istvan

Kantor. Was one of The 14 Secret Masters of the World and is said to have been a snow leopard.

**Istvan Kantor:** A folk singer and one of the individuals present at the origins of Neoism in Portland. The first person to be officially designated as “Monty Cantsin - Open Pop Star.” Was also one of The 14 Secret Masters of the World and is said to have been a brightly colored firefly.

**Jerry “The Pinheaded Baudelaire” Sims:** A boarder in David Zack’ s household in Portland. A little person ( “popeye” ) from NYC’ s 42nd Street. Disliked music later than Al Jolson. Pathologically concerned about his “tiny bone structure.” Was reportedly made Istvan Kantor’ s manager by Zack, which Kantor was unaware of.

**Stiletto:** Involved in the Drip Grammar Festival of Plagiarism in Glasgow. Possessed motorbike gear used by another participant. Accused by others of making police experiments.

**Roberto Zito:** Slept in the dormitory during the disruptive events at the Drip Grammar Festival of Plagiarism in Glasgow. Was awakened and frightened by the appearance of someone in motorbike gear.

**Graffix:** Mentioned in relation to a firework being lit outside his bedroom door at the Drip Grammar Festival of Plagiarism. Graf Haufen is later rumored to be Yantoh (first Monty Cantsin) and already knew the history of Neoism. Graf also travelled to Ponte Nossa for APT 9.

**Reinhardt:** The target of a planned disruptive apartment entry involving Genie and Gail.

**Via:** Mentioned as someone the narrator wanted another memorable encounter with.

**Genie:** Involved in the planned disruptive apartment entry targeting Reinhardt. Also mentioned in the Dr. Thorne story (Eugenie).

**Gail:** Involved in the planned disruptive apartment entry targeting Reinhardt. Also wrote stories furthering the “Dr. Thorne” mythology.

**Steve:** Involved in an incident related to the Dr. Thorne mythology, where people acted paranoid towards him. Also appears as “mild mannered Steve Thorn” in Gail’s story.

**Dr. Thorne / Steven Thorne:** A character in Gail’s stories, depicted as a specialist in de-programming victims of government mind control, hiding out in London. The object of a bizarre birthday celebration that leads to his arrest. His origins are described as mysterious ( “never born” ).

**Rodney:** A character in the Dr. Thorne story, described as a mild-mannered dope fiend and double agent, believed by Thorn to be his friend and accomplice. He encourages Thorne to pack his toothbrush and eventually participates in his arrest.

**Pete:** A character in the Dr. Thorne story, described as Thorn’s pal, confidante, and house warden. He is angry and demands someone record the date, time, and place of the “Neoist Anthem.”

**Litvinov:** A character in the Dr. Thorne story, critical of tENTATIVELY a cONVENIENCE’s dinner. Later tells Thorne to just leave his teeth upon his arrest.

**Eugenie:** See Genie. A character in the Dr. Thorne story, critical of tENTATIVELY a cONVENIENCE' s dinner.

**tENTATIVELY a cONVENIENCE:** A participant in the events, particularly notable for concocting a “nearly edible dinner” in the Dr. Thorne story. Also involved in other activities described in the excerpts. Mentioned in the context of the Neoist Anthem and seems to be a central figure or narrator in several accounts.

**Stewart:** A character in the Dr. Thorne story, expressing a need for humor and not taking things so seriously. Possibly the same Stewart from the Drip Grammar Festival who demanded the film be destroyed. Was also one of The 14 Secret Masters of the World and is said to have been a horse.

**Jenny:** A character in the Dr. Thorne story, suggesting a “smile” is needed and identifying herself as the nurse in the house.

**Giorgi:** A character in the Dr. Thorne story, commenting on smiling and asking “What nurse?”

**Bree:** A character in the Dr. Thorne story, interjecting with “No all of that.”

**Kiki Bonbon:** Participated in an event at the Peking Poolroom in Montreal, holding a steam iron to reflect lasers.

**Zbigniew Brotgehirn:** Participated in an event at the Peking Poolroom in Montreal, holding a steam iron to reflect lasers.

**Richard Ellsberry (then known as Richard X):** Gave a lecture about the Krononautic Organism at the Peking Poolroom event in Montreal.

**Ruth Turner:** Did something on the roof adjacent to the kitchen during the Peking Poolroom event.

**Doug Retzler:** Wandered the streets of Montreal during the Peking Poolroom event under the influence of LSD, aiming a laser and periodically calling the Peking Poolroom to report.

**Mizza:** Slept during the disruptive events at the Drip Grammar Festival of Plagiarism.

**Karlheinz Stockhausen:** A composer of modern classical music, whose piece “Harlequin” is discussed in the context of critiquing “high art.”

**Ian Stuart:** A clarinetist who toured Britain performing Stockhausen’s “Harlequin.”

**Ken Rea:** The author of a Guardian review of Ian Stuart performing Stockhausen’s “Harlequin.”

**Horobin:** Mentioned in the Dr. Thorne story ( “throw it in the bin” ). Also a name associated with “Hypnotic Movement.”

**Gordon W. Zealot:** Provided a free meal to the narrator during the festival where street actions were performed. Mentioned as Gordon W. OM Taka Taka, and appears to be Monty Cantsin.

**Cantsin:** Often used interchangeably with Monty Cantsin, sometimes referring to a specific individual or the general concept.

**Karen Eliot:** A name associated with “Language Constructions” and definitions of psychiatric disorders. Also listed as a source for SMILE 8.

**Alan Lord:** Mentioned in connection with APT 6 and Blo-dart acupuncture/ear piercing.

**Dr. Thorne:** See Steven Thorne.

**Yantoh:** The Mystery Dog, first called Monty Cantsin. Given life by Diana. Lived in Akademgorod as a human form with Zack. Changed shape into a dog on instruction from The Fourteen Secret Masters of the World. Disappeared after the London APT Fest in 1984. Said to have moved to Berlin and taken the form of Graf Haufen. Instructed “me” to make the APT 8 book.

**Diana:** The Goddess of Love and Hunting, said to have given life to Yantoh. Also mentioned in relation to APT 8.

**The Fourteen Secret Masters of the World:** A deeply secret organization that met in David Zack’ s front room. Instructed Monty Cantsin (Yantoh) to change into a dog. Each of them is said to have also been Monty Cantsin and had the form of a mystery animal.

**Ackerman:** One of The Fourteen Secret Masters of the World, said to have been a honey badger.

**Vittore Baroni:** Mentioned as being one of The Fourteen Secret Masters of the World, said to have been a three horned goat. Also listed as TRAX SMILE Vol. 1 No. 1.

**T. Hsieh:** Mentioned as having been a North American Bison.

**Maris Kundzins:** Involved in the origin of the name “Monty Cantsin” with David Zack, whose name sounds similar.

**Norman Hallerith:** The founder of the pop group “Stormin’ Norman and Susie!” Mentioned in a fragmented narrative.

**Quirinus Kuhlmann:** Author of “Der Kuhlpsalter oder di fuenffzehn Gesänge” ( “The Caterpillar Moved the Hair Away From His Ears” ), mentioned in a fragmented narrative doubting the existence of “me.”

**Silas Haslam:** Quoted as saying, “If one of my mules is at the ripe-grass place, I will fight with time.”

**Doktor Donald Prescott:** Mentioned as “My friend.”

**Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau:** Film director whose photograph as a lieutenant in the German army was used as the image for the ghost musical group “Lt. Murnau.”

**Luther Blissett:** A name whose etymology and symbolism are deeply explored, linked to Hebrew and concepts of beginning, end, and eternity.

**Joki:** Listed as SMILE 1 and author of “Replying.”

**H. Polkinhorn:** Listed as author of “The 56 Laws of Neoism.”

**Oz Zack:** Mentioned in connection with the origin story of the Monty Cantsin name. Likely related to David Zack.

**Salem Alaton:** Author of “The Globe and the Mail,” quoted in one of the excerpts.

**RAF VEC:** Mentioned in connection with Monty Cantsin’ s Cell system and correspondence novels.

**Martial “Locus Solus” Canterel:** Described as an open pop star, possibly referring to Monty Cantsin.

**Monty “Hocus Pocus” Cantsin:** Another variation of the Monty Cantsin name, linked to magic.

**Jack London:** Compared to Monty Cantsin in relation to squirrels.

**Nagarjuna:** A philosopher mentioned for his ideas on the illusory nature of the world.

**EMIL:** A bull mentioned in connection with a living issue of Smile magazine carried by Monty Cantsin.

This timeline and cast of characters are constructed based solely on the provided excerpts, which are fragmented and do not present a linear or conventional narrative. The relationships and events described are often metaphorical, allegorical, or deliberately confusing, reflecting the nature of Neoism as presented in these texts.